

**Mansfield Board of Education**  
**June 12, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Randy Walikonis, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Susannah Everett, John Fratiello, Sarah Lacombe, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein

**Excused:** Jay Rueckl

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** CABA Award: Rebecca Coyne and John Zhou, eighth graders at the middle school, were honored by Mr. LaPlaca with the CABA Student Leadership Award.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** Ric Hossack and Arthur Smith spoke regarding superintendent's mileage.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Letter from MEA Executive Board. Letter from Mr. LaPlaca announcing his resignation effective July 1, 2014.

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Mr. LaPlaca reported the committee met on June 11, 2014, 2014. Motion by Mr. LaPlaca to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee as presented:

1. Advise the Personnel Committee to negotiate specific language in the new Administrator's contract regarding the "past practice" of providing stipend for in-district travel and work to reduce or eliminate the amount paid, taking into account whether or not that amount would be greater if individual reimbursement were submitted.
2. Require more specific language in the Superintendent's contract limiting the amount of reimbursement for mileage without express Board authorization to \$9000 annually.
3. Finance department engage Blum Shapiro to randomly select one month per year for the last three fiscal years (2011/2012, 2012/2013, and 2013/2014) to audit all mileage reimbursement forms submitted by the Superintendent for accuracy of mileage amounts, that dates are correct, and that mileage is calculated correctly, and to have a report to present to the Finance Committee by September 1, 2014.

Discussion followed. Motion by Mr. Fratiello, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to amend the motion to reduce Superintendent's mileage reimbursement to \$5000. Vote: In favor: Mr. Fratiello and Mrs. Kelly. Opposed: Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Everett, Mrs. Lacombe, Ms. Silver-Bernstein, and Mr. LaPlaca. Abstention: Mrs. Paulhus. Motion failed.

Vote on Motion to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee as presented: In favor: Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Ms. Everett, Mrs. Lacombe, Mr. Walikonis, Mr. LaPlaca, Mrs. Paulhus. Opposed: Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Fratiello. Motion passed.

**Personnel Committee:** Mr. Walikonis reported there will be an Executive Session following the meeting.

**Teacher of Year Committee:** Mrs. Paulhus reported that Erika LaBella, kindergarten teacher at Southeast School, has been chosen 2015 Mansfield Teacher of the Year.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan: Fran Raiola, Director of Emergency Procedures, and Sergeant Rich Cournoyer, Sergeant in Charge Resident Troopers' Office, and Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology discussed that a plan for each school is required to be submitted to the CSDE.
- Mansfield Public Schools Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan 2014-2015: Dr. Linda Robinson reviewed the changes to the Plan. Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to approve the submission of the Mansfield Public School Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- 2013-2014 Teacher Evaluation Report: Mr. Baruzzi presented his report to the Board in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-151b.
- Preschool Update: Mr. Baruzzi and Dr. Leclerc reviewed the potential mid-day bus runs.
- 2014-2015 Budget: Mr. Baruzzi reported that at the Town Meeting on May 13, 2014 the Board of Education Budget was increased by \$145,000. Motion by Ms. Silver-Bernstein seconded by Ms. Everett to fund the following: Language Arts Coordinator - \$100,510; Discovery Education software - \$5,000; an additional mid-day preschool bus for each school - \$33,000; and \$6,490 to the salary contingency account. Vote: In favor: Mr. Fratiello, Mrs. Lacombe, Ms. Everett, Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Silver-Bernstein, and Mr. LaPlaca. Opposed: Mrs. Kelly Abstention: Mrs. Paulhus
- Food Service Update: A summary of accomplishments for 2014-2015 was shared with the Board.

- Paraprofessional of the Year: Dr. Leclerc reported the 2015 Mansfield Paraprofessional of the Year is Amber Woodworth.
- Mansfield Public Schools Common Core State Standards District Plan 2014-2015: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed additional steps the district is taking for Common Core State Standards including professional development for district staff.
- Mansfield Public Schools 2014 Summer Programs: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the programs offered for students this summer.
- Administrator Appointments: Motion by Randy Walikonis for the Personnel Committee to appoint Larry Barlow as the Assistant Principal of Mansfield Middle School, effective July 1, 2014 and to appoint Susan Muirhead as the Principal of Goodwin Elementary School, effective July 1, 2014. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- School Climate Survey: Mr. Baruzzi reported the spring school climate surveys are available on the Board's website.
- Class Size/Enrollment: No significant change in class size or enrollment.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Mrs. Lacombe, seconded by Ms. Everett, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 Meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: None

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Mrs. Kelly would like a discussion of information she distributed to the Board. Ms. Silver-Bernstein would like a discussion of the Physical Education Program including goals and curriculum.

Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe, to move into Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's evaluation and non-union wages and salaries at 10:39pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.  
Mr. Baruzzi joined the Executive Session.

The Board returned to regular session at 12:13am.

Motion by Mr. Walikonis on behalf of the Personnel Committee to increase the salaries of the Asst. Director of Facilities, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, the Personnel Assistant and the IT Director by 2.0% and to change the percentage of insurance premiums paid by the Asst. Director of Facilities, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and the Personnel Assistant to 16.5% and the IT Director to 19%. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to extend the Superintendent's contract by an additional year and to increase the percentage of insurance premium paid by the Superintendent to 19%. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Mr. Walikonis on behalf of the Personnel Committee to increase the Superintendent's base salary by 2%. Vote: In favor: Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Ms. Everett, Mrs. Lacombe, Mr. LaPlaca. Opposed: Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Fratiello. Abstention: Mrs. Paulhus.

Motion by Ms. Everett to adjourn at 12:17am. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk